AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 27–65 are newly presented.

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (New) A method of providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

providing a web site for enabling a calling party to initiate a voice call to a called party over the IP network;

receiving a request from the web site by the calling party to initiate a voice call to the called party over the IP network;

determining whether the voice call initiated by the calling party is accepted by the called party;

if the voice call initiated by the calling party is not accepted by the called party, then performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the calling party via the web site; and

transmitting the message to a data storage system for storing the message for retrieval by the called party.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

29. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the message includes a video message.

30. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

31. (New) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

initiating a pager notification call to a pager device operated by the called party, said pager notification call for notifying the called party that the message has been stored and is available for delivery via the IP network.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said pager notification call includes an indication of a web site uniform resource locator (URL) for retrieving the message.

33. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said determining whether the voice call initiated by the calling party is accepted by the called party includes:

determining whether the called party is online; and

if the called party is online, determining whether the called party accepts the voice call initiated by the calling party.

34. (New) A telephony system for providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

a web server for providing a web site for enabling a calling party to initiate a voice call to a called party over the IP network and receiving a request from the web site by the calling party to initiate a voice call to the called party over the IP network; and

a processor configured for receiving a message from the calling party via the web site if the voice call initiated by the calling party is not accepted by the called party and transmitting

the message to a data storage system for storing the message for retrieval by the called party.

35. (New) The system according to claim 34, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

36. (New) The system according to claim 34, wherein the message includes a video message.

37. (New) The system according to claim 34, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

38. (New) The system according to claim 34, further comprising:

means for initiating a pager notification call to a pager device operated by the called party, said pager notification call for notifying the called party that the message has been stored and is available for delivery via the IP network.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said pager notification call includes an indication of a web site uniform resource locator (URL) for retrieving the message.

40. (New) The system according to claim 34, wherein the processor is further configured for determining whether the called party is online and, if the called party is online, determining whether the called party accepts the voice call initiated by the calling party.

41. (New) A method of providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

    providing a web site for enabling a called party to request retrieval of a message from a calling party initiating a voice call to the called party over the IP network;

    receiving a request from the web site by the called party to retrieve a message from the calling party;

    fetching the message from a data storage system storing the message for retrieval by the called party; and

    transmitting the message to the called party over the Internet Protocol network.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

43. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein the message includes a video message.

44. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

45. (New) The method according to claim 41, further comprising:

    registering the called party via the web site.

46. (New) A telephony system for providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

a web server for providing a web site for enabling a called party to request retrieval of a message from a calling party initiating a voice call to the called party over the IP network and receiving a request from the web site by the called party to retrieve a message from the calling party;

a processor configured for fetching the message from a data storage system storing the message for retrieval by the called party and transmitting the message to the called party over the Internet Protocol network.

47. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

48. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the message includes a video message.

49. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

50. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured for registering the called party via the web site.

51. (New) A method of providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

    providing a web site for enabling telephony services over the IP network to at least a calling party and a called party;

    receiving a request from the web site by the calling party to initiate a voice call to the called party over the IP network;

    determining whether the voice call initiated by the calling party is accepted by the called party;

    if the voice call initiated by the calling party is not accepted by the called party, then performing the steps of:

    receiving a message from the calling party via the web site; and

    transmitting the message to a data storage system for storing the message for retrieval by the called party;

    receiving a request from the web site by the called party to retrieve a message from the calling party;

    fetching the message from a data storage system storing the message for retrieval by the called party; and

    transmitting the message to the called party over the Internet Protocol network.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

53. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the message includes a video message.

54. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

55. (New) The method according to claim 51, further comprising:

initiating a pager notification call to a pager device operated by the called party, said pager notification call for notifying the called party that the message has been stored and is available for delivery via the IP network.

56. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein said pager notification call includes an indication of a web site uniform resource locator (URL) for retrieving the message.

57. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein said determining whether the voice call initiated by the calling party is accepted by the called party includes:

determining whether the called party is online; and

if the called party is online, determining whether the called party accepts the voice call initiated by the calling party.

58. (New) The method according to claim 51, further comprising:

registering the called party via the web site.

59. (New) A telephony system for providing telephony services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

a web server for:

providing a web site for enabling telephony services over the IP network to at least a calling party and a called party,

receiving a request from the web site by the calling party to initiate a voice call to the called party over the IP network, and

receiving a request from the web site by the called party to retrieve a message from the calling party; and

a processor configured for:

receiving a message from the calling party via the web site if the voice call initiated by the calling party is not accepted by the called party,

transmitting the message to a data storage system for storing the message for retrieval by the called party,

fetching the message from a data storage system storing the message for retrieval by the called party, and

transmitting the message to the called party over the Internet Protocol network.

60. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein the message includes a voicemail message.

61. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein the message includes a video message.

62. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein the message contains multi-media information.

63. (New) The system according to claim 59, further comprising:

means for initiating a pager notification call to a pager device operated by the called party, said pager notification call for notifying the called party that the message has been stored and is available for delivery via the IP network.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein said pager notification call includes an indication of a web site uniform resource locator (URL) for retrieving the message.

65. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein the processor is further configured for determining whether the called party is online and, if the called party is online, determining whether the called party accepts the voice call initiated by the calling party.